



Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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NUMBER 9

Resurrection In China

The church is alive and well in the People's Republic of China! So says Dr. David Stowe, executive vice president of the United Church Board for World Ministries, after a recent visit to China with a group of UCC pastors and lay people. He reports:

- 1 million Protestants, a third more than at the time of the 1949 revolution;
- 100 churches open and full;
- a reopened Protestant seminary with a freshman class of 19 women and 30 men chosen from 1100 applicants.

In Hangzhou Dr. Stowe and the American group attended a standing-room only Sunday service at the Protestant church. Parishioners must arrive an hour early to be assured of a seat. At least a third of the congregation are young people, including a number of soldiers. In Shanghai one Protestant church borrowed \$31,000 for a complete overhaul of its building. Otherwise, the 1200 members meet all church operating expenses from the weekly offering.

Five years ago, says Dr. Stowe, Chinese church leaders told him the future of Christianity in their country looks bleak. "What we are seeing today," he says, "is nothing short of a miracle!"

Insurance Company Studies Religious Commitment

Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company has left the industry routine to examine in depth the impact on American life of religion and morality, and concludes that it is the level of our religious commitment which, in the early part of the '80's, is a stronger determinant of our values than whether we are rich or poor, young or old, male or female, black or white, liberal or conservative.

"The influence of religious belief pervades our activities in the home, the community and the workplace, as well as our attitudes on social and political issues,"

[Continued on Page 4]

The Christmas Fund

For The VETERANS OF THE CROSS And The EMERGENCY FUND



December Time For Christmas Fund Offering

Christmas is an especially appropriate time for us in the United Church of Christ to remember those in our church family who have served us long and well — retired ministers and their spouses.

One way we can remember those who have given us years of leadership is through the Christmas Fund of the UCC Pension Boards. In addition to providing such Christmas remembrances, the Fund also helps our ministers — active or retired — who face unexpected needs or emergency situations.

This year's theme for the Christmas Fund is "Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God," from the Book of Micah. These words from the Old Testament prophet have been the charter of our actions and service of God's servants over the centuries.

Special Christmas Fund brochures and offering envelopes have been forwarded to each church. Please plan to give generously.

The Christmas Fund provides an opportunity to say "thank you" to retired pastors and their spouses for their many years of devoted service to the church and the people it represents.

Church Shoulders Assumed

In March, 1981, several religious leaders, including clergy from our United Church of Christ, testified before a U.S. Congressional Subcommittee. They testified to the continued need for nutritional programs at a time when proposed government budget cuts threatened to curtail many such programs.

The members of the subcommittee gave serious attention to the testimony of the church leaders, but then pointed out that budget cuts should be expected. Not only that, but to the amazement of some of the leaders themselves, one legislator on the subcommittee said, "The burden of continuing to feed the hungry lies on the shoulders of the members of the nation's churches!"

This astonishing conclusion illustrates well the challenge that rests upon the church to more vigorously support ecumenical efforts to empower the hungry, to pursue systemic and legislative approaches to the issue of hunger, and to assist a variety of hunger-alleviating projects in the U.S. today.

This we can do by our contributions to the UCC Hunger Action Fund, as well as by our direction action in local communities. For more information, write Hunger Action Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, 16th Floor, NY, NY 10115.

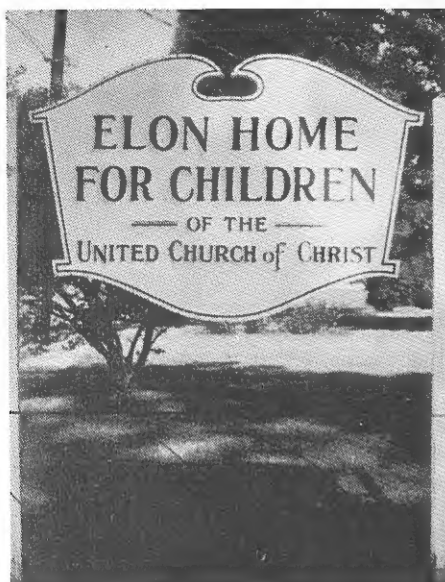
— Atlanta Council UCC Newsletter

Toward Creative And Simple Living

Last night you had a dream in which you sat at a table enjoying a sumptuous meal when, suddenly, you realized that the people sitting around you had only rice and water to eat. You asked your neighbor, "Who are all these people? Why are they being served only rice and water?" And your neighbor replied, "Haven't you seen them before? They have always been there!"

We in the developed nations of the world comprise 28% of the world's population,

[Continued on Page 3]



Elon Offers Sponsor Program

Elon Home for Children, a United Church health and welfare agency, located in Elon County, N.C. is now offering churches, church groups and individuals a new way to help support the Home's program and the children it serves.

Called the "Sponsor Program," individuals or groups are invited to participate for a year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) in one of four ways:

—Allowance Sponsors would help provide regular spending money for the boys and girls. A suggested amount is \$5 per month or \$60 per year.

—Clothing Sponsors would help furnish clothing for a child. The clothing allowance guide is \$20 per month or \$240 per year.

—Birthday and Christmas Gift Sponsors would make certain a child is provided for on both occasions with a gift of \$35 per year.

—Special Needs Sponsors would be encouraged to give \$50 per month or \$600 per year which would provide for school supplies, medical/dental needs for which other resources are not available, field trips and camp fees.

For brochures further outlining the Sponsor Program, write: Elon Home for Children, P.O. Box 157, Elon College, N.C. 27244.

The Final Word

"I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of a nuclear destruction. I believe the unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality."

— Martin Luther King

CONFERENCE CORNER

REV. WARREN BLANKENHORN

Around this time of year most all of our churches involve themselves in that process which we know as Stewardship — the process of enlisting financial support for the church's ministries in the coming year.

Toward that end I am reminded of a story by Halford Luccock who said, "You remember that among the Franks whole armies were sometimes given baptism at one stroke, and many warriors went into the water with their right hands held high, so that they did not get wet. Then they could say, 'This hand has never been baptized,' and they could swing their battle axes just as freely as ever. The modern counterpart of that partial baptism is seen in many people who have been baptized, all except their pocket-books. They hold these high out of the water."

Faith isn't something you just feel or think about or talk about. Faith is continually demonstrating God's presence in our lives by giving of ourselves and our resources to others.

This is often easy — and convenient to forget. Therefore, it is doubly important that we seek to baptize those wallets in our stewardship giving this year!

COCU To Celebrate 20th Anniversary

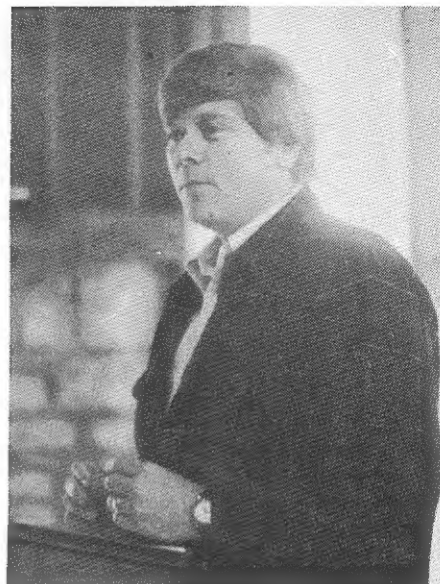
COCU, the nation's largest-ever church union effort, will celebrate its 20th anniversary in Louisville, KY this March, its leaders determined to have the 10 participating denominations demonstrate their commitment to each other in significant ways even before any union takes place.

The Consultation on Church Union (COCU) will bring representatives together of some 22 million American Christians at Louisville's Galt House March 9-12 to usher in the movement's third decade.

COCU began in 1962, two years after a famous sermon by Presbyterian Eugene Carson Blake urging four major denominations to join forces in a new church.

A first draft of a union plan prepared in the early 1970s ran into snags, but the churches feel they have broad agreement on faith, worship and sacramental issues, and each has taken action to recognize the others' members.

The March meeting will hear a "State of Union" address by the Rev. Dr. Gerald F. Moede, COCU's secretary in Princeton, N.J., and will debate the idea of a covenant as well as the earmarks of a covenant relationship.



DR. ROY STAUFFER of the Christian Church [Disciples of Christ]

Ala.-Tenn. Clergy Explore UCC- Disciples Merger

Nearly 40 clergy persons, representing the Alabama-Tennessee Association of the United Church of Christ and the Tennessee Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), gathered at Bethany Hills Campground, White Bluff, TN on October 19-20 to explore on a local level the conversations concerning possible further merger between the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Under the leadership of Dr. David Beebe, pastor of Chattanooga Pilgrim UCC, and Dr. Roy Stauffer of the Christian Church, discussions were held on the similarities and differences in understandings of the nature of the church, ordination of ministers, and celebration of baptism and communion.

During the next two years further dialogue on the possibility of merger has been scheduled for lay members of local churches, throughout the Southeast Conference. Representative UCC and Disciples congregations have been paired and have been requested to hold a series of meetings utilizing a study packet entitled "The Covenant." Reactions to the meetings, which will be held throughout the country, will be forwarded to the headquarters of each denomination to see if there is sufficient "grass roots" support to seriously warrant formal merger negotiations.

Churches which are interested in providing input are invited to do so. For further copies of the study packet, write: Christian Board of Publication, P.O. Box 179, St. Louis, MO 63166.

Pilgrimage Church Moves

Pilgrimage UCC, a new church start located in Marietta, GA, has moved out of the bowling alley and into a church building.

Having outgrown the space they were using at the Sprayberry Bowling Lanes, Pilgrimage UCC moved this past September into the historic Holly Springs Methodist Church located on Holly Springs Road in Marietta. The church building was no longer in use and available for rent.

"Genuinely excited" is how church pastor Ira Chace responded to the move. While now located in a church building, Pilgrimage continues to plan for fund raising and construction of its own facilities on its own property.

That will be the final step for a church that has truly made a pilgrimage — beginning in a pizza parlor, moving to a bowling alley and now in a temporary church setting!

CURT'S NUGGETS

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee:

Some people put as little as possible into life and hope to hit the jack pot.

Creative Living . . . cont'd

yet we consume 84% of the world's energy. We own 92% of the world's automobiles. We possess 80% of the world's income. And we eat far more than our fair share of the world's food!

A new booklet, *Creative and Simple Living*, prepared recently by a UCC congregation in Seattle, WA, provides one way in which you can do something to help redress this imbalance.

"Simplified living," the booklet notes, "is a matter of ethical Christian stewardship in this world of imbalanced and inequitable use of resources. Simplified living is a necessary response to the present and future world resource crisis."

"To ensure food for all," the booklet continues, "we should decrease the amount we eat, substitute vegetable protein for animal protein, minimize food waste, and add to home food supplies by farming and gardening on available land." Specific suggestions follow for acquiring food, changing eating habits, planning meals, keeping and conserving food, and affecting corporate and governmental food policies.

Individual copies of this booklet (which may be duplicated locally) are available for a donation of \$1.00 to cover shipping cost from: Lifestyle Committee, University Congregational Church, UCC, Box 5687, Seattle, WA 98105.



Part of the large crowd attending First E&R's 90th birthday.

Nashville First Celebrates It's Ninetieth Birthday

First Evangelical & Reformed Church, UCC in Nashville, TN celebrated its 90th

birthday in special services held at the church on October 4, 1981.

Begun by Swiss immigrants in 1891, the church's first building was constructed in 1893. In 1952 the church moved to its present location and worshipped in what is now the parsonage until the new sanctuary was completed in 1955. In 1969 a new educational building was added when membership passed the 200 mark.

The October 4 "Celebration of Our Heritage" included a morning worship service followed by a Swiss-German dinner highlighted by the performance of a German folk dancing group. The church's old Bibles, hymnals and church records were on display.

The church's pastor is Dr. Lelan McReynolds.



Pastor David Beebe [l] speaks with members of Pilgrim UCC, Chattanooga, TN.

Insurance Company cont'd from page 1

says the Connecticut Mutual Life Report on American Values in the '80's — The Impact of Belief, a nationwide survey that the insurer commissioned "to probe for the basic beliefs and core values of a diverse cross sampling of Americans."

The random sampling of the public and its leaders examined these key sectors: religion in America, involvement and belief in the American political system; local community, moral and political issues; survival of the American family; survival of the American work ethic; the search for leaders; and implications of what was learned.

Some of the major highlights of the survey:

—The percentage of religious Americans is the same as in the past, but beliefs appear much more important to them than before.

—The level of religious commitment predicts individual attitudes and behavior far better than traditional distinctions of race, sex, age, income, education, occupational status or political persuasion.

—Highly religious people believe more in their community, family, work and the American political and social system than do the least religious.

Hugs Called Good Medicine

A California social scientist believes hugging is good medicine. It transfers energy and gives the person hugged an emotional boost.

"You need four hugs a day for survival, eight for maintenance and 12 for growth," Virginia Satir said in the April issue of *Seventeen* magazine.

She said a hug makes people feel good because "the skin is the largest organ we have and it needs a great deal of care. A hug can cover a lot of skin area and give the message that you care."

It is also a form of communication the scientist says, because it can say things you don't have words for.

And "the nicest thing about a hug is that you usually can't give one without getting one."

Vintage

Roman women powdered their faces with ground white lead and colored hair with imported dyes. They were convinced, it seems, from their hair dyes, that blondes had more fun.

—Religious Americans also are more active in community and politics, out-voting the least religious, according to their responses, by more than three to two on a percentage basis.

—Religious current throughout America transcends all social and political boundaries and appears to be far more than a reaction to such visible and politically

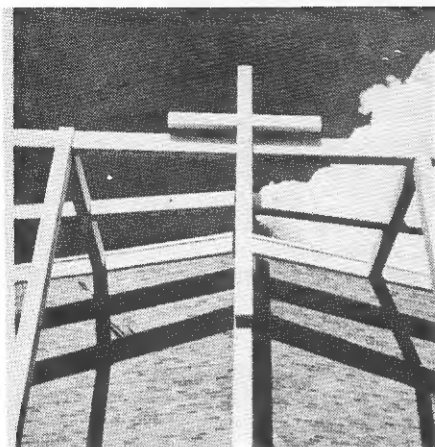
active organizations as the "Moral Majority."

—Of the nine leadership groups surveyed, all except religious and business leaders were found to be out of step with the general public on most issues.

For further information on the survey results, write to: A.M. Best Company, Oldwick, N.J. 08858.

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PILGRIM UCC, Chattanooga, TN

Around The Conference Pilgrim UCC, Chattanooga

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

A church that has historically provided some of the strongest Conference support has been Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, located in Chattanooga, TN. One of two UCC churches was organized in December, 1914 out of a gathering of people interested in forming a Congrega-

Services Held For Priscilla Chase

Priscilla Chase, 80, died October 12, 1981 at the Wharton Nursing Home in Pleasant Hill, TN. She had been a resident of the Uplands retirement community in Pleasant Hill since 1969.

Born in 1901 in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, Miss Chase, following graduation in 1923 from Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, was commissioned as an Extension Worker for the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Churches.

Her first assignment in educational field work was with churches in the area now encompassed by the Southeast Conference. In particular, Miss Chase served the Deer Lodge Church in Deer Lodge, TN as well as a number of churches in Georgia.

Following a term as Minister of Christian Education for the Ohio Conference of Congregational Christian Churches, Miss Chase served as Director of the Order Department of the Missionary Education Movement, which during her tenure became part of the National Council of Churches in the United States, based in New York City.

A memorial service was held for Miss Chase at the Community Church of Pleasant Hill on October 29. Persons wishing to make memorial contributions are asked to forward them to Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578.

tional Church in central Chattanooga.

After meeting in a theater, the congregation built a beautiful colonial building which was dedicated in 1922. The cornerstone of the new church building was an old millstone from the Congregational Brainerd Indian Mission which was formerly located in Chattanooga.

Under the leadership of Rev. Arnold Slater, now Pastor Emeritus, the congregation outgrew its facilities resulting in the re-location of the church in 1959 to its present modern structure.

With some 370 members, the church supports a "full service" ministry, employing a full-time pastor, an office secretary, organist-choir director and part-time Christian education enabler. The church building is used for numerous community groups from the Mental Health Association to the garden clubs to the Council on Adoptable Children. Members of the church are identified in the community as leaders in progressive civic issues. Several members of Pilgrim have held national posts in the United Church of Christ.

Supporting a full church program, Pilgrim Church still stands in its heritage of an open faith, wedding honest scholarship with concern for justice in society. True to

SPEAKING OF YOUTH

For youth leaders as well as youth there are three publications that you might like to include in your library:

—"Findings from the 1980 National Youth Event Survey" — excellent research data that better help in understanding what youth think and feel about themselves, their families, the culture in which they live and the church.

—"Bound Together in Faith," *New Conversations*, Winter '80-'81 — a series of 12 articles written by persons like Andrew Young, Avery Post and Randy Furushima about the National Youth Event and different aspects of youth ministry and culture. —"Youth Magazine — an award-winning monthly publication of the United Church of Christ, excellent for junior and senior high youth.

To order any of these materials, write: UCBHM, 132 West 13th Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10001.

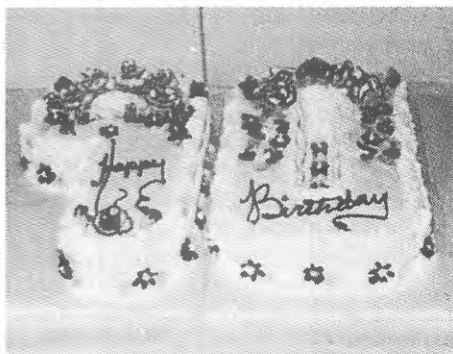
UCBHM Grants And Loans Announced

Church building grants and loans totaling close to \$1.66 million were approved in October by the United Church of Christ's Board for Homeland Ministries. The national church agency's board of directors also allocated \$550,500 to aid in the establishment or renewal of 15 churches. The grants of \$52,000 and loans of \$1,607,500 will be used for building efforts of 17 churches throughout the country.

Florida congregations will receive the greatest share of building funds. The second highest allotment was made to a Plano, TX congregation.

Additional loans were also made to churches in California, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Michigan, and South Dakota.

its covenant, the church continues to strive "toward the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood."



Birthday cake for First E&R.

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NEWS AND NOTES

Bonanza United Church of Christ, located in Jonesboro, GA, will celebrate its 15th Anniversary with a Homecoming celebration on November 15.

Fairfield Glade Community Church, Fairfield Glade, TN, has called Rev. Wolfgang Koehler as its new pastor and teacher. Rev. Koehler is presently pastor of St. John's UCC, Monroe, Wisconsin where he has served since 1968. Rev. Koehler will follow Rev. Marion Mansell, Fairfield Glade's founding pastor, who recently retired.

Rev. Ira Chace was installed on October 18 as pastor and teacher of Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, a new church start located in Marietta, GA.

Barriers, the Access Game, is a game especially designed to show the successes and frustrations that face disabled citizens daily as they try to maneuver through the barrier-ridden environment. Barriers can be ordered from: Message Management Consultants, Box 20010, Indianapolis, IN 46220 for \$8.00 plus \$1.25 for postage and handling.

Rev. Paul Johnson, pastor of First Congregational Church, UCC in Montgomery, AL, was recently interviewed in a special feature article for The Montgomery Advertiser. The article highlighted First Church and the work of the UCC.

Pilgrim UCC, Birmingham, AL, will be demonstrating their heritage on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22. All members of the congregation have been asked to make and wear original Pilgrim costumes and attend a worship service duplicating that celebrated by the Plymouth colony.

The United Church of Christ, along with 14 other religious bodies with congregations in the state of Georgia recently joined together to create "The Georgia Christian Council." The purpose of the council is to facilitate dialogue as well as coordinate programs for persons in need.

Susan Lackey and Mitchell Wilder were married at Church of the Savior, UCC in Knoxville, TN on August 29. Susan is the daughter of the church's pastor, Rev. John Lackey.

Brooklawn Children's Home, the oldest Health & Welfare Agency of the United Church of Christ, is offering a special cookbook in honor of its 130th Anniversary. The cost of the cookbook is \$5.00 plus \$1.50 for handling and shipping. Write: P.O. Box 32336, Louisville, KY 40232.

Interested in continuing education for yourself or your pastor? Write to: The Center for Professional Development in Ministry, Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

"Commitment and Hope" is the theme of the "Ecumenical Event" being sponsored by the National Council of Churches November 5-7 in Cleveland, OH. The meeting will highlight the goals and commitment of the ecumenical movement.

Want to help Appalachia Habitat for Humanity? They are in desperate need of: a desk and desk chair for the office, a cassette tape player and 35mm camera and a small movie screen. If you can respond, write to: Mark Frey, P.O. Box 14, Robbins, TN 37852.

"Criminal Justice Issues" is a publication of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ. If you would like to subscribe to this publication, write to: Commission for Racial Justice, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

The ministry of the Morgan-Scott Project is featured in the 1981-83 Biennial Report of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

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